BOB NEATE
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THE CROSBY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
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Hello again,

Well, here we are, zipping through August, on the downhill stretch to end of the year. Where has 1981 got to?!

In our May newsletter, we spoke of a change of address for the Machliss family. I'm happy to say that that event is now history and we are happily (if only temporarily esconsed at 420 St Kilda St, Brighton. Users of the cassette library who prefer to pick up and deliver tapes from our home address may again do so. The new Machliss telephone number is 596 5959. But please, we would appreciate it if you respect our privacy. Unless it is really urgent, we would appreciate your directing all letters, messages, etc to our Club postal address: PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205.

Well, August being again upon us means that is also that time of the year again, as you will probably have realized by now if you have read the attached sheet.

Please, please, PLEASE, if you intend to renew, do it now and save us the cost of sending out reminders. Perhaps even more important, if you don't intend to renew, also let us know now. As everyone knows, the cost of mailing grows ever higher and although we have been able to contain membership rates thanks to our financially successful film evenings, money spent on unnecessary postage is money wasted.

By the way, if you are experiencing any kind of financial difficulties at the moment (and who isn't) and can't afford the membership fee, please let me know and we will be happy to extend your membership for as long as necessary without payment. Your letter will be treated in complete confidence; in fact only the Treasurer and myself will know about it.

We seem to have a mighty heap of material for this issue, not the least of which is the news of a certain new book on Bing of which I feel sure you have already heard!

I don't intend to give this book undue emphasis here as I feel that it has already received all the publicity that it needs. Many members have written to me expressing

their surprise and/or disgust at the book and a selection of their letters appears elsewhere in this newsletter. For myself, I do feel that many of the reactions have been overreactions. The image of Bing that was projected for so many years was always too good to be true and perhaps this book will help to restore the balance. One thing is certain however. No book, no matter by whom it is written, will ever alter the fact that Bing possessed one of the most remarkable singing voices (in the popular field) this century and the enormous pleasure he gave to millions of people bears testimony to this fact.

This issue features contributions from a number of members. From Father Arthur Dussault of Gonzaga University we have photographs and a newspaper review of the Crosby staue unveiling. From David Duncan of NSW we have a copy of 'Picturegoer' from April 1950 featuring a story and review of Bing's picture of that year, 'Riding High'. From Graham Pascoe of NSW we have an article on a radio tribute to Bing which he and Roger Ward presented over a local station. From Ken Twiss, we have a report and other items from the Historical Society's recent 1981 Tribute. We also have news of exciting new record issues on the Spokane label from the USA plus a fascinating article on the Australian Sound Archives at the National Library in Canberra.

As is our custom then, let's begin this newsletter with details of our Future Functions.

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS
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MONDAY AUGUST 17TH - FILM & MUSIC EVENING

It's been some months since we featured a combined film and music night, so we've set aside the evening of August 17th for just such a function.

As has become our custom in recent times, one half of the programme will consist of a selection of short films of interest to the Crosby buff and also anyone who likes the

music of the 1930's and 40's. How's this for a varied programme:

"Jitterbug Party" featuring Cab Calloway and other black artists of the period.

"The Lady in Red" sequence from the movie 'In Old Caliente'
"Bill" sung by the lady who made the song famous, Helen Morgan.
"A Date with Duke" featuring the Ellington band
"Swing is Here" from 'Ali Baba Goes to Town' (Eddie Cantor)
"Annie Get your Gun" extracts starring Judy Garland!
The rare footage shot before she was dropped from the film.
"Hollywood on Parade" (No. 5) from the early 30's.
"A night in a dormitory" from 1930 and starring a very young Ginger Rogers.
"Crosby extracts" featuring the musical numbers from a couple of Bing's features.

After interval, Bill Bennett will be along with another of his taped programmes of Crosby music and he may be assisted by one or two other members.

As always, there will be a door raffle with Crosby LP's and other prizes to be won.

Venue is the theatrette of the Mobil Building in South Melbourne, and starting time is again 7.30 p.m. SHARP. This time, if people come late, we will simply have to cut back on our film programme on the night as we must leave the theatrette by 10.30 p.m.

ENTRY:

Members: $2.00
Member Families: $5.00
Pensioners and Junior Members: $1.00

Non-members: $4.00
Non-member Families: $8.00

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH - DINNER DANCE - CANCELLED.

Earlier this year, we penciled in this date as a possible for our Dinner Dance. Unfortunately, we have had to

cancel this function, due to the fact that no-one could be found to organize it. The indispensible Thelma Wood is still recovering from her illness and is not yet fit enough to take on the task. In the absence of any willing volunteer, we have no choice but to cancel.

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MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH - A.G.M. & FILM EVENING

As a bribe (what else would you call it) to get you to attend the Annual General Meeting, we will be screening on of Bing's rarely seen 1930's musicals "ANYTHING GOES". Made in 1936, this version re-unites Bing with Ethel Merman and includes some of the original Cole Porter songs. More details on this one when the date approaches.

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PAST FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY MAY 18TH - FILM EVENING

A remarkable evening. Remarkable for the turn out (close to 80 members), remarkable for the main attraction (The Big Broadcast of 1932) and remarkable that yours truly didn't get lynched for showing the supporting feature (Just Imagine)!

"The Big Broadcast", as you can imagine, was a wonderful movie - every bit as good as legend had it and a fine debut for Bing in feature films.

However, "Just Imagine", the world's first science fiction musical, was, shall we say, lacking in those qualities which appeal to the modern film audience!

To be fair, the film was a genuine curiosity and its view of life in the year 1980 (from the aspect of 1930) was at times interesting and amusing.

The Bing Crosby alarm clock featured in the last issue of the newsletter was won by a happy Ron Were.

'Spokane's favorite'

The only thing missing from the massive tribute to Bing Crosby on the Gonzaga University campus yesterday was Bing Crosby himself.

The fabulous crooner was there in spirit as his family members, long-time friends, and fans from around the world gathered to give him honor.

He was certainly there in bronze as a larger-than-life statue of him in casual pose was unveiled by his lovely wife Kathryn, his sister Mary Rose Crosby Pool, his long-time friend, the Rev. Arthur Dussault, S.J., vice president of Gonzaga University, and by Deborah Copenhaver, the young sculptor.

Kathryn Crosby gently touching the foot of the statue and looking up, smiling, into the bronze face of her late husband was a moving moment and certainly the high-point of the unveiling ceremony. But it was by no means the only meaningful moment of the day.

A crowd of hundreds listened to a message read from President Reagan, a message that was both a tribute to Bing Crosby and a congratulations to Spokane on the start of this city's centennial celebration.

"How we all miss Bing," read the president's message. "He warmed our hearts."

Another high point of the ceremony was a telephone call from Bob Hope, long a friend of Crosby.

"I wish I could be there with you," Hope said during the call, which was broadcast over the public address system.

The Very Rev. Bernard Coughlin S.J., president of Gonzaga, was, for a few moments, a straight man for Hope as the world-famous comedian made good-natured priest jokes and Jesuit jokes. (About Bing: "Anyone with all those kids who can play a priest, deserves an Oscar.")

Hope then went on to pay his own tribute to Crosby: "He was a great man, a great talent. . . ."

The massive crowd gathered in front of the Crosby Library included Crosby fans from as far away as England and Brazil.

Students filled the balconies of a nearby dormitory hung with signs: "BING LIVED HERE."

As comedian and impressionist Rich Little came to the podium, the students unfurled a Canadian flag. Both Little and emcee Gordon Atkinson, producer of the radio program, "The Crosby Years," and a long-time friend of Crosby, are from Canada.

The crowd seemed to especially enjoy Little's impressions of presidents Reagan, Nixon, Ford and Carter.

But while it was the students who cheered loudest for Little, it was the entertainers of the Crosby era who evoked emotion in the many Crosby fans present.

Jimmy Van Heusen, composer of some of Crosby's most beloved songs, including "Sunday, Monday or Always" and "Swinging on a Star," came to the podium, took off his jaunty red hat and in a heavy, gravelly voice told anecdotes of his long association with America's beloved singer.

There was the time he told a little old lady fan that the clothes bar in Crosby's car was for his parakeets, and when the singer returned to his car, the woman gushed about how she had always loved him, but now that she knew he had 48 parakeets traveling with him, she *really* loved him.

Phil Harris, famous entertainer from the big band era, also shared his memories — memories that included hunting and fishing with Crosby.

"He's probably up there playing nine holes right now," Harris quipped pointing heavenward.

The tributes continued. Those coming to the podium for brief speeches and those paying silent tribute in the audience included, Gov. John Spellman, Mayor Ron Bair, representatives of Crosby's Pro-Am Tournament, Crosby Fan Club presidents from England and from around the United States, and dignitaries of Gonzaga.

Roy Chappel, Crosby impressionist from England, did an incredibly accurate rendition of "When the Blue of the Night." It was eerie sitting there hearing that Crosby-like voice vibrate out through the crowd gathered to do him honor, out past the huge pictures of Crosby hanging from the facade of the Crosby library, out over the campus where young Crosby spent his youth.

The tributes went on and on. Crosby was "unique," "the greatest singer of songs who ever lived," "one of America's most beloved sons," "one of a kind," "filled with love and music," and a "man who brought life and joy, happiness and entertainment to people all over the world."

The tributes went on into the night as Phil Harris lead off a gala evening of entertainment focused on Spokane's most famous artist.

Kathryn Crosby told the crowd yesterday, "Thank you for taking me to your heart. You are his (Bing's) friends."

It was true. Spokane yesterday was filled with "friends of Bing," expressing their love for "Spokane's most favorite son."

(Past Functions cont.)

MONDAY JULY 6TH - VIDEO EVENING

As an experiment, on July 6th we hired a large-screen video projector and showed a selection of Bing on video tape.

Unfortunately, we managed to choose one of the coldest, most miserable Winter nights of the year, so turnout was less than thirty.

Nonetheless, those present seemed to enjoy our offerings: Bing's Oslo concert, recorded in 1977 on his way to England for those final concerts, and 'Bing Crosby - his life and legend', the two hour documentary on Bing's career. Thanks to Ron Were for the loan of the last-mentioned.

Despite the low attendance, we will have future video evenings. However, we will endeavour to find older and rarer items to show, in particular, TV shows from the 1950's.

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THE KEITH G. HYDE BEQUEST - FOUR NEW CASSETTES ADDED.

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We're happy to announce the addition of a further four C90 cassettes in the club library containing further material drawn from the Keith G. Hyde Bequest tapes.

They contain a variety of miscellaneous material drawn from radio, TV and private records.

KHB 23: Includes the song 'Get yourself a phonograph', Bing & Phil Harris in a private recording of 'Mr Gallagher & Mr Shean', and Bing on a number of 15 minute radio shows from the 1940's and early 50's.

KHB 24: Includes Bing's guest appearance on the Sgt. Bilko show in the mid-1950's, a 1961 TV special from England, and Bing and Peggy Lee from another early 60's TV special.

KHB 25: Interviews with Bing, including one by Norman Banks in 1969, one by Philip Brady in 1964, one by Lucille

Ball - also in 1964, and one by Hazel Philips in 1967.

KHB 26: More radio and TV material from the 1950's and 60's with guests Bob Hope, Dean Martin, etc.

There are probably sufficient odd items, songs about Bing, rehersals, old newsreels, etc to fill one last cassette. It's quite a time-consuming task to spool through the dozens of tapes to find these items, but this tape should be completed by the time the next newsletter appears.

I'm delighted to be able to say that the Keith G. Hyde Bequest tapes are still amongst the most popular in the library.

WILL ALL CASSETTE BORROWERS PLEASE NOTE HOWEVER!

Cassettes from the Club Library are loaned for a maximum of ten days (plus postage time). Certain members are completely ignoring this time limit and keeping their cassettes for often weeks more. As there is always a backlog of members waiting to borrow cassettes, these selfish few are causing considerable delays. If you wish to avail yourself of the club services, please follow the rules!

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BOOK LIBRARY - NEW RULES

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The book library announced in our last issue has met with a very disappointing response. Only a handful of members have availed themselves of this service (possibly because of the high postage costs involved) and so, in future, books will only be available at meetings where they may be hired for a period of one month for the cost of $1.00.

Borrowers may either then return them by mail or in person to my home address.

Country and interstate members may still borrow by mail of course, but it is understood that they will pay all mailing costs involved. These can be pretty steep since the last rise in postage charges. For example, 'Call me Lucky" costs around $3.00 to send one way!

However, for those prepared to pay, the service is available

BING —JUST FOR THE RECORD

BERT BISHOP and
JOHN BASSETT

23 May	Everything's agreed upon *(unissued)*	W 149841	(164)
26 Aug.	Three little words	PB61013-5	(165)
29 Oct.	Fool me some more	PB61047-3	(166)
29 Oct.	It must be true	PB61048-3	(167)
20 Nov.	Them there eyes	PB61057-3	(168)
20 Nov.	The little things in life	PB61058-?	(169)

1931

19 Jan.	I surrender, dear	PB61068-2	(170)
2 Mar.	Thanks to you	PB61075-1	(171)
2 Mar.	One more time	PB61076-2	(172)
2 Mar.	Wrap your troubles in dreams	PB61077-2	(173)
2 Mar.	Just a gigolo	A61078-2	(174)
30 Mar.	Out of nowhere	LA 983-A	(175)
30 Mar.	If you should ever need me	LA 984-A	(176)
1 May	Ho hum!	PB61091-2	(177)
1 May	I'm gonna get you	PB61092-2	(178)
4 May	Were you sincere?	LA 1036-A	(179)
4 May	Just one more chance	LA 1037-A	(180)
12 June	I'm through with love	LA 1024-A	(181)
12 June	*Many happy returns of the day	LA 1042-A	(182)
12 June	I found a million dollar baby	LA 1043-B	(183)
12 June	How the time can fly *(rejected)*	LA 1044-A	(184)
24 June	At your command	LA 1051-A	(185)
24 June	At your command	LA 1051-B	(186)
19 Aug.	I apologise	E 37085-A	(187)
19 Aug.	Dancing in the dark	E 37086-A	(188)
19 Aug.	Stardust	E 37087-A	(189)
2 Sept.	Just one more chance *(trailer)*	PG68310-1	(190)
2 Sept.	I'm through with love *(trailer)*	PG68311-1	(191)
14 Sept.	Sweet and lovely	E 37156-A	(192)
6 Oct.	Now that you're gone	E 37281-A	(193)
6 Oct.	A faded summer love	E 37282-A	(194)
8 Oct.	Too late	E 37284-A	(195)
8 Oct.	Goodnight, sweetheart	E 37285-A	(196)
25 Oct.	The thrill is gone *(medley: Part 1)*	E 37320-A	(197)
25 Oct.	Life is just a bowl of cherries *(medley: Part 2)*	E 37321-A	(198)
23 Nov.	Where the blue of the night	E 37373-A	(199)
23 Nov.	Where the blue of the night	E 37373-B	(200)
3 Dec.	I'm sorry dear	E 37440-A	(201)
3 Dec.	I'm sorry dear	E 37440-B	(202)
16 Dec.	Dinah	E 37467-A	(203)
21 Dec.	Can't we talk it over?	E 37474-A	(204)
21 Dec.	I found you	E 37525-A	(205)
21 Dec.	I found you	E 37525-B	(206)

*Certain pressings show LA 1042-AB

1932

21 Jan.	Snuggled on your shoulder	B 11163-A	(207)
11 Feb.	St Louis blues	BX 11263-A	(208)
11 Feb.	St Louis blues	BX 11263-B	(209)
16 Feb.	Starlight	B 11291-A	(210)
16 Feb.	Starlight	B 11291-C	(211)
16 Feb.	How long will it last?	B 11292-A	(212)
23 Feb.	Love, you funny thing!	B 11330-A	(213)
23 Feb.	My woman	B 11331-A	(214)

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BING - JUST FOR THE RECORD

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On the two preceeding pages, we feature the cover and a sample page from a privately produced book recently issued in England. Compiled by well-known U.K. collectors Bert Bishop and John Bassett and published in a professional hard cover format by John Joyce, the book is an essential addition to even a casual collector's library.

It lists every one of Bing's commercial records from 1926 to 1977 in chronological order (with dates) and then lists them again in alphabetical order so that it is possible to find the date or title of any Crosby song ever made.

Incidentally, the book numbers every take of every record from go to whoa and you might be interested to know that the total comes in at 2321! However, as new unissued takes of old records are still cropping up, it's certain that this figure is far from complete.

If you do not possess a list of Crosby recordings, I cannot recommend this book too strongly. The cost is modest and it is a continuing source of information and pleasure.

Price including mailing is:

U.K.	Three pounds 50p	
U.S.A.	Four pounds surface	Six pounds air
Australia	Four pounds 50p surface	Six pounds 50 p air
Europe	Four pounds.	

Please make payment in the form of International Money Order or Bank Draft. Please do not (except in the U.K. of course) send personal cheques. Payment should be directed to:

John Joyce
John Joyce & Son
Saltmeadows Road
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear NE8 3AH
England

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NEW RECORD ISSUES

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* Four exciting new LP's from Spokane records head the list of new issues this month. They are:

SPOKANE 18 'BING & CONNEE" Songs taken from Kraft Music Hall broadcasts include: Manhattan, You ain't kidding, Rose O'Day, Ohh look at me now and Basin Street Blues.

SPOKANE 19 'MUSIC HALL HIGHLIGHTS' Sixteen more selections from Kraft shows 1940 - 41. Great listening.

SPOKANE 20 'DER BINGLE Vol 3' Songs from the WW2 era. Include: Ida, Bless 'em all, Fifth Marines, Riding Herd on a cloud, Bombadiers Song.

SPOKANE 21 'BING & THE MUSIC MAIDS' Twenty tunes taken from KMH broadcasts 1939 - 41. Never before available on LP. Super rare photographs. Songs include: Honolulu, Stop it's wonderful, Scatterbrain, Little red fox, Sunday, Down by the Ohio, I've got my eyes on you

Spokane Records, as you may know, are produced by a man named Larry Kiner. Larry is one of the few people anywhere in the world actively issuing new Crosby LP's from old radio material and he certainly deserves your support.

If you can't find the above records at the Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre or Cunningham's Record Centre in Brighton (both of whom offer discounts to members, then write to Larry direct.

All LP's are US$7.00 each. Outside the USA add $3.00 for the first LP and $1.00 for each additional disc. As air-mail rates vary greatly from country to country, please write first for air postage costs.

Please send all orders to:

Nostalgia, P.O. Box 82, Redmond, Washington 98052, USA.

* MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC on Grappenhauser Records, Grap 1001. This UK issue features 38 minutes of song material from (mostly) Bing's early 50's radio shows. Songs include: Music Music Music, I'll walk alone, Heart and Soul,

Candy and Cake, Enjoy yourself, Whoop and a hollar.

If you can't find the disc in the record shops here, write to: Legend Music, 153 Francklyn Gdns, Edgware, Middx.ENG.

EVERGREENS Philips This is the Australian equivalent of "Come Rain Come Shine" which was issued in the U.K. last year. 'Evergreens' features 12 Buddy Cole and Bing tracks from the 1950's to which producer Ken Barnes has added modern orchestral accompanyment in stereo. Songs include Old Cape Cod, Chances are, New sun in the sky, My baby just cares for me, This can't be love. At only $5.99, LP or cassette, the disc is excellent value.

PERRY COMO LIVE ON TOUR RCA Not sure whether this has been issued in Australia yet, so check your record shops. This record is of interest to Crosby fans in that Perry features a tribute to Bing on the last half of side 1. He includes a number of well known Crosby songs too.

TAKE 2 RECORDS
Although they don't have any Crosby material in their catalogues yet, Take 2 records are well worth keeping an eye on. The producers have had access to a large amount of early sound on film material (especially Vitaphone) and they are issuing selections from it on LP. You may have seen one of their records "Legends of the Musical Stage" around town. This features early film soundtracks by Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, Marilyn Miller, Sophie Tucker, Harry Richman and others.

Other LP's feature the filmsand/or recordingsof such artists as Al Jolson (Jolson Story outtakes), Gus Arnheim, Lee Morse, Ruth Etting, Cliff Edwards, Connee Boswell, Helen Kane, Buddy Clark and Red Nichols.

For further details, write to:

Take Two Records, PO Box 36729, Los Angeles, California 90036, USA.

NEW 45'S OF OLD RECORDS
Just lately, a couple of smaller record shops have been advertising new 45 issues of pop songs from the 1940's, 50's and 60's. Although the 50's and 60's is obviously rock music, anyone know about the content of the 1940's material?

BING CROSBY GOES TO THE RACES see centre

IS it true that horses get so attached to mascots they won't run without them?"

Answer: "Yes, that's true, but a jockey is useful, too."

The questioner is Coleen Gray, as a very fetching Alice Higgins in *Riding High*. The answerer is Bing. He plays the part of Dan who owns nothing but a racehorse known as Broadway Bill. The mascot referred to is a small-sized rooster called Skeeter. Skeeter and Broadway Bill form a mutual admiration society.

When it comes to racing Broadway Bill, the jockey proves quite useful, too.

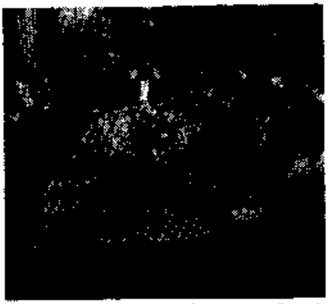
Riding High is all racecourse stuff with tricksters, tipsters, suckers and grafters to give the cream to the coffee. There are magnificent characters such as "The Professor" (Raymond Walburn), who has given fifteen years to working out an unbeatable system, and prior to putting the bite on a pal declares that "by an investment of a paltry fifty dollars I can show a profit of a hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars within two weeks." His faith in himself is at times positively touching—just a big-hearted grafter who hates letting a pal down.

His colleague, Happy (William Demarest), admits to that one. "I read my fairy tales at night." But then Happy is given to being morbid. When a hamburger chef offers to swap a pie for the hat he's wearing Happy's reply is: "Wouldn't have anything to hang myself with." Happy never smiles.

"*Oh the owner told Clarence*
the clocker,
The clocker told jockey McGee:
The jockey, of course
Passed it on to the horse,
And the horse told me."

Riding High has a nice way of breaking into song with items such as the above, which is sung at an alfresco party with him, and Dan's arm round Alice's pretty shoulders. "De Camptown ladies sing dis song" is done as a sort of roundelay while on their way to the great race with Broadway Bill. Bing's voice is pretty nice, but—confidentially—it was Alice who delighted my young eye. That girl has winning ways.

But horses do something to you seemingly. Give Bing a song to sing about a racetrack, and he knows all the notes; give him a sick horse and he knows all the answers; give him a stop watch . . . but why go on? What I'm getting at is, give him a girl like Alice, and it takes all ten reels of *Riding High* for him to wake up to the fact that she's in love with him and he in love with her. I was beginning to fear he was a non-starter until he slung a neat couple of bricks through his daddy's new Georgian windows to show that he had woken up to what was the best bet of the day.



This is the starchy set-up Dan (Bing Crosby) gets himself into by being engaged to Margaret Higgins. Papa Higgins is the big boss

On the road to the races, Dan and Alice (Coleen Gray) and Whitey (Clarence Muse), accompanied by Broadway Bill, try out a song

John Harper, Caruso, Melba live again in Australia's archive of

One Million Sounds of History

Sound archivist in the National Library's music and sound recordings section, Peter Burgis, with a 1919 Edison cylinder phonograph.

The sounds of gravel-voiced John Harper, the 2KY announcer who smashed every Andrews Sisters' record that passed his desk, the strong-selling pitches of Owen Ainley and Charles Hemingway for Bex and the humour of the legendary Jack Davey, with his 'Give it a go', 'Dulux Show' and 'Ampol Show', are alive and well and forming part of Australia's history in sound at the National Library in Canberra.

The recordings are in a collection of one million titles, a fascinating history of the days when the phonograph was a major highlight of home entertainment and radio was today's television set.

David Mason reports.

THERE are 1000 episodes of Dad and Dave, Search for the Golden Boomerang (donated by 3NE and the only set in existence), recordings of one of radio's longest-running programmes, Mrs 'arris and Mrs 'iggs, the rich, exciting voices of Melba and Caruso and radio shows featuring such stars as Kitty Bluett, John Dunn and Dick Cranbourne.

The library's sound collection is believed to be the largest archive of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. It includes many rare recordings.

Although it is difficult to value because many of the recordings are the only copies in existence, the collection is estimated to be worth more than $500,000.

It comprises about 4000 rare cylinder phonograph records, nearly 5000 tapes and 265,000 discs.

The collection has been assembled by the library's music and sound recordings section in just four years — a notable achievement considering two of the section's staff of five are involved full-time in administering the collection.

The section's collection policy is all-embracing, with an emphasis on Australiana.

It is responsible for developing a national collection of music and sound recordings, both published and unpublished.

In developing the sound recordings collection, the section has two key aims: to preserve sound recordings as historical material and to make recordings available to the public for both study and enjoyment.

The collection contains a wide and historic range of sound recordings. It includes cylinder phonograph records extending from the 1890's to 1929, 78's dating from 1890 to 1960, lp's covering the years from 1948 to today and wire and magnetic tapes dating from the 1940's to the present.

Also represented are broadcast transcription discs featuring thousands of Australian radio programmes.

As well, there are many thousands of radio commercials, including historic Bex and Aeroplane Jelly spots.

All types of music are represented — jazz, hillbilly, classics,

opera, folk, dance, pop, blues, brass band, ethnic, sacred, ballet, a musical kaleidoscope made during the past 80 years of commercial recordings.

Also preserved are recordings of speeches, bird calls, current events, poetry, sport and national disasters.

There are numerous "temporary" discs (usually acetates) featuring private recordings and "off air" radio material.

Peter Burgis, sound archivist in the library's music and sound recordings section, attributes the section's success in building the collection to constant liaison with record manufacturers and broadcasters.

"This liaison has involved regular field trips to most Australian States promoting our undertaking and negotiating gifts of record collections," Burgis said.

"Members of the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters have been most generous and helpful by donating discs which are no longer needed for broadcasting.

"We also keep in touch with phonograph and gramophone societies. Members of these societies include leading private collectors, who are usually most sympathetic to our project."

Other valuable sources of sound recordings have been the broadcast transcription manufacturers and members of the Advertising Institute of Australia, who have provided commercials and other material.

As well, members of the Australian Record Industry Association have provided copies of new issues.

Among FARB members (major contributors to the collection) include 2XL (12,000 discs), 2UW (11,000), 3NE (9000), 2GN (8300), 2SM (7000), 2CA (6000), 2NX (5850), 4BH and 3GL (both 5000), 3BO (4000), 2HD (3000), 2AD (2700), 2RE (2650), 2CH (2500), 3DB (2400), 2LT (2250), 2NM (1650), 5AD and 2AY (both 1450) and 3SH (1000).

In the past three years, federation members have donated about 100,000 discs and tapes to the collection.

The 50,000-odd radio transcription discs in the library include a joint donation of more than 30,000 by AWA and Grace Gibson, 4800 from Australian Radio and Television Productions, 2450 from Broadcast Exchange of Australia and 2100 from EMI.

Surprisingly, several large collections have come from Her Majesty's prisons, notably Bendigo and Pentridge. The records were originally donated to the prisons by local radio stations.

THE library's music and sound recordings section is not confining itself to productions of the record and radio industries. It is also collecting soundtracks of cinema and television programmes.

Early gramophone record catalogues, publicity releases for radio serials, monthly record supplements and photographs of re-

cording artists supplement the library's sound collection.

There are also artists' personal papers such as scrapbooks, letters, diaries, posters and music, concert and theatre programmes.

Outstanding in the collection are the personal papers of the famous Adelaide-born bass-baritone Peter Dawson (1882-1961) and those of Billy Williams (1878-1915), the Melbourne music hall artist who achieved outstanding success in England and was, like Dawson, a prolific recording artist on both cylinder and disc.

Underlining its role as industry historian, the section has recorded more than 30 interviews with pioneer broadcasters, artists, composers, record manufacturers and retailers.

They include interviews with Mrs Peter Dawson, Dame Joan Hammond, Charles Wollaston (a pioneer record retailer), the late Harold Williams (an Australian baritone) and Australian contralto Essie Ackland.

The changing technology of sound reproduction is featured in the collection by cylinder and disc phonographs.

Because of the section's small staff, plus technical limitations, public access to the collection is restricted at present to what Burgis says are "the more urgent and worthy inquiries".

APPLICATIONS for material and inquiries about the collection far exceed the scope of the section's staff and equipment. Preference is given to the broadcasting and television industries because the audiences they command represent a much larger section of the community than individuals.

Explains Burgis: "We believe we have a valuable role to play in supplying the needs of both the broadcasting and television industries for special purpose programming.

"This collection is designed to act as a national archive for handling special problems that a network library could not be expected to solve. In this way, we will service a vast listening and viewing audience and, hopefully, contribute to improved production and artistic standards."

Burgis says agencies would be welcome to use material in the archives for advertising as long as they obtained clearances on the material's copyright and its use for advertising.

The section receives many requests from educational bodies for material. The South Australian Department of Education, for example, has sought copies of early Australian radio programmes and commercials for the production of an audio-visual series of lectures to introduce pupils to radio as it was before television.

People wishing to contribute to Australia's history of music and sound should write to Peter Burgis or librarian Prue Neidorf at the music and sound recordings section, National Library of Australia, Canberra.

Their contribution could well form part of a turn-of-the-century programme on the way television was before the introduction of the home communications centre. □

Bing Crosby's authorised biographer, Charles Thompson, found there was some uncertainty about the date of Bing's birth when he was writing his book, The Complete Crosby.

No official record of the birth was available but Thompson concluded from other evidence that the most likely date was 2nd May, 1901.

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of this "birthdate", Roger Wain and Graham Pascoe will present a 1½-hour session of Bing's music on Saturday, 2nd May. They will play some of Bing's best known songs and some material which will be less familiar to most listeners.

Bing will perform with members of his first and second families, and will have fun with some of his many friends. A selection from the extensive list of his film hits will be played. A wide scope of Bing's songs will be covered -- from jazz to the ballads, from 'Mississippi Mud' to 'White Christmas'.

Bing and sister Mary Rose. Ages 5 and 4!

Riding High***

Coleen Gray **Bing Crosby**

THIS, as far as I can remember, is a light hearted version of *Strictly Confidential*, which featured Myrna Loy.

It is a crazy racetrack story about Dan Brooks, a horse lover with a touch of the gipsy in him, who forsakes the track when he becomes engaged to the socially-minded daughter of a business tycoon.

He finds the position hopeless, but penniless as he is, with the help of a friend or two and the assistance of his fiancée's pretty younger sister Alice, he manages to get his horse to win the Jubilee Derby.

So off with the old love and on with the new and back to the racetrack for Dan and Alice.

There are some good songs for Bing Crosby, who can always get his personality across. The race sequences are very well presented.

Alice is charmingly played by Coleen Gray and there are several old-timers in the cast who register—Charles Bickford, Raymond Walburn, James Gleason and William Demarest among others.

But really, Crosby deserves something better than this.—*Paramount. American. "U" certificate. Runs 112 minutes. Directed by Frank Capra. Screenplay by Robert Riskin, based on a story by Mark Hellinger. Release date April 3.* L. C.

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA SCREENS KING OF JAZZ

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Pages 17 - 20 of this issue feature a reprint of an article on the Sound Recording section of the National Library in Canberra. This has been included, firstly for general interest, but secondly, because we have been making regular contact with Peter Burgis in recent months.

Did you know that we now send two copies of 'The Crosby Voice' to the Library for their use, every issue and that we have also presented them with a complete set of back issues for their files.

In a recent letter, Peter writes:

"I am very pleased to acknowledge receipt of the Society journal "The Crosby Voice" which will now be available for users of our Section to peruse. When I am next in Melbourne, I would like to get together to discuss ways in which the National Library can improve its documentation of Bing's career and increase our holdings of his recordings.

We consider it important that our collection reflect his achievements in the world of the performing arts and I trust your society may be prepared to help and guide us to achieve this aim."

Certainly we will be delighted to help Peter in his work and if anyone has any comments or contributions that they would like to make, I'm sure that the National Library would be pleased to hear from them.

The address: Sound Recording Collection and Services
National Library of Australia
Canberra
ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

All this of course, has very little to do with the headline at the top of this page! I do seem to have rambled somewhat! Getting back to the point, in May this year, Chris Long (who may be familiar to radio listeners of Melbourne's 3ZZ) presented a paper on 'Optical Sound and its reproduction' to the conference of the International

Association of Sound Archives. Chris requested a loan of 'King of Jazz' to demonstrate several points he wished to make, and from all reports, the conference was a great hit.

We are really pleased to see that 'King of Jazz' is reaching a wider audience these days, especially one that can appreciate it from a technical viewpoint - and a remarkable technical achievement the film is too!

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BITS 'N' PIECES

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* I'm always the last to find out about these things but I've only just recently learned that every Saturday afternoon between 1.00 and 6.00, radio 3AK presents a programme of original recordings of the 1940's and 1950's! Every week there are at least a couple of Bing tracks and a whole lot more to please the nostalgic listener. Now that's real beautiful music! (3AW also presents a programme of older records on Sunday afternoons and of course, on Sunday evenings from 10.00 til midnight, Neville Wragg and Clark Sinclair present their popular show 'Remember When'.)

* Rudy Vallee recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

* We're sorry to report that Al Rinker, last surviving member of the Rhythm Boys, is extremely ill in hospital. There's even a chance that he may not survive.

* While we're in a depressing mood, we should note the passing of George Jessel and also, of Fred Astaire's sister Adele. Although Adele never worked with Bing, she in fact retired at about the time that Bing was first becoming established as a solo artist, I've always felt that the entertainment industry lost a potentially great star when she quit the business. Through the few early records that she left behind, Adele Astaire presents a sparkling, likeable personality. George Jessel of course did work with Bing, first in radio and later on TV. Apparently Jessel visited Australia only a couple of years ago.

* There is a series of weekly magazines ("Collect them all into a magnificent series of volumes") called "The Movie" which is covering the history of the film industry in great depth. (USA and other countries too for a change). Issue 31 which was released in this country a few weeks ago features a cover story on Bing and his career. The cover photo is one I've never seen before. Taken during the filming of Emperor Waltz, it features Bing relaxing in a canvas back chair amidst the splendour of the European castle in which the film was shot. Quite unusual, and in colour too.

* We still have a few copies of the Tacoma Souvenir disc for sale. Cost of the disc is $4 plus a dollar extra for postage if required.

* John Lennon, in an interview given a short time before his death last year admitted to being influenced by one of Bing's records. In the interview, he is explaining the inspiration behind a number of Beatle songs, and he comes to 'Please Please me'. To quote: "That's me completely. It was my attempt at writing a Roy Orbison song, would you believe it? I remember the pink eyelet down over the bed sitting in one of the bedrooms in my house in my house on Menlove Avenue, my auntie's place. I heard Roy Orbison doing 'Only the Lonely' on the radio. Also, I was always intrigued by the words to a Bing Crosby song that went (singing) 'Please...lend a little ear to my pleas...' I was intrigued by the double use of the word please. So it was a combination of Roy Orbison and Bing Crosby."

* Recently, my wife Janet and myself spent a weekend away without the children at the Queenscliff Hotel. (For overseas and interstate members, Queenscliff is a seaside resort about 80 km from Melbourne.) The Queenscliff Hotel is a lovely old place, originally built about 120 years ago. The owners have carefully restored the hotel to its former glory and its a wonderful place to go for a weekend away. What does all this have to do with Bing? Well, the owner is a 30's record fan and the background music consists of vintage music. Our first evening there, we were entertained over dinner by both LP's of 'Bing Crosby - the early Jazz Years', followed by a couple of hours of Al Bowlly. The next evening, more Bowlly and Fats Waller. ***** recommendation!

"Long-play albums dedicated to preserving the performances of BING CROSBY"

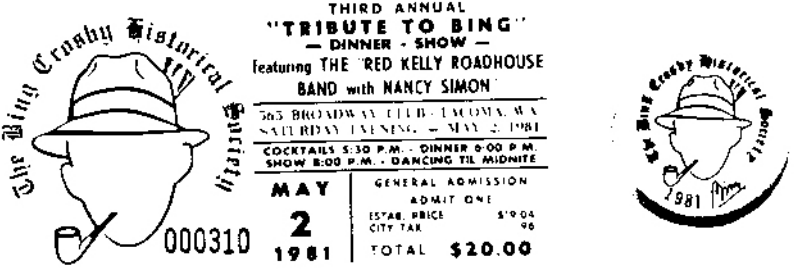
SPOKANE RECORDS

1. "On The Air" Vol. 1
2. KMH March 12, 1942
3. KMH April 30, 1942
4. KMH April 14, 1942
5. "Der Bingle" Vol. 1
6. "Happy Holiday"
7. KMH May 27, 1937
8. "Sing You Sinners"
9. "Birth Of The Blues"
10. "Der Bingle" Vol. 2
11. KMH January 19, 1942
12. "Bing In The Thirties" Vol. 1
13. KMH December 24, 1942
14. "Bing In The Thirties" Vol. 2
15. "Holiday Inn" & "The Bells Of St. Mary's"
16. "Music Hall Highlights"
17. KMH May 29, 1941
18. "Bing & Connee"
19. "Music Hall Highlights"
20. "Der Bingle" Vol. 3
21. "Bing & The Music Maids"

SPOKANE RECORDS

P.O. BOX 724

REDMOND, WA. 98052



Above: Souvenirs from the 1981 Bing Crosby Historical Society tribute to Bing last May.

Below: Another gem from the Keith Hyde collection. Kathryn holds a baby Mary Francis Crosby in her arms.

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LETTERS

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(Many letters have been received commenting on "Bing Crosby the Hollow Man". Here's just a selection.)

From Richard Pearson, Arlington.

I honestly believe that every Crosby fan should read the book. The authors, Donald Shepherd and Robert F. Slatzer do not paint a pretty picture of Bing but they have obviously done some digging and what they have come up with makes for interesting reading whether you agree with their opinions or not. The book depressed me because I am a Crosby fan, but on the other hand, if the book is a best seller it may stimulate more interest in Bing and his music which may prove to be a blessing in disguise. (Maybe more Crosby albums will be issued!) If the book is not a best seller, it still will have served some purpose by providing some more insight into Crosby the man rather than Crosby the legend. For one thing, the book doesn't repeat the same popular misconceptions of how Bing became a star.

From Francis Smith, New York.

The only good feature coming from the whole ugly mess is the fact that so many radio commentators are expressing their disgust and their disbelief at the recent rash of stories attempting to discredit Bing's reputation.

From Bernard Brusey, Burwood.

(Bernard sent us a copy of a letter he sent to the Melbourne Herald.)

A story was published in the Herald recently depicting Bing as a 'monster', an appelation usually applicable to such unsavoury people as Stalin, Hitler, Eichmann, etc. The Authors of the book the Herald quotes from, state that Bing was incapable of outward show of affection and that he had few, if any, friends. Outward displays of affection do not mean that loving and caring do not exist. I myself have been married for 30 years and find it hard to tell my wife that I love her, although I do dearly. If Bing helped anybody or donated any money to

charity and anyone publicized the fact, he was very embarrassed and gave the person concerned the cold shoulder.

Bing was very strict with his family, and would be considered Victorian by today's standards. The statement that he had few, if any, friends I find hard to believe of such a popular and public figure, although, when one thinks about it, how many friends does the average person have? Real friends, I mean. Those who would help out in time of dire need or emergency. Friends or no friends, if I were to die knowing I had made so many people happy as Bing did, then I could with all my shortcomings know that my life would have been of some value.

But not being able to sing like Bing did doesn't give people reason to make excuses for me. It seems to be a habit of writers wanting to make a fast buck to debunk and denigrate popular and public figures after their passing. How many of us are without our faults, selfishness, greed, unkindness, etc?

After a hectic life of making films, the tinsel, the so-called glamour, Bing liked the quiet and peace of his own home. He rarely entertained. Look back over the past years and be reminded of the happiness and cheer he gave to people in the dark years, the Depression, the war years, the comfort and lift he gave to men who fought at Dunkirk, the Pacific, the P.O.W.'s etc. I was one. I had two scratchy records of Bing that I played over and over and whenever I was low in spirit they pulled me out of depression and loss of hope.

Bing sang for 50 years; he was still singing a week before he died. How many entertainers before or since will equal this?

I don't want to know about Bing's private life, although it's nice to be able to think that one's heroes are nothing short of being perfect. But we are all human with our faults and that would be wishful thinking. I loved the man, his voice, his personality and I have his records and enjoy them. I'm sure all the fans of Presley, Sinatra, etc will agree with me. I find it hard to believe that he died an unloving and friendless man.

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COLLECTOR'S CORNER
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This issue, we feature another group of rare LP's, this time round from the early 50's.

'Bing' opposite was totally recorded in one day, May 16th, 1953 and features eight songs sung in French by Bing. An old Latin scholar myself, I can't vouch for Bing's accent but it sounds pretty good to me!

The second LP dates from 1950 and is an extremely early example of this type of record. It features 8 songs from Bing's 1949 movie 'Top of the morning' and his 1948 effort, 'Emperor Waltz'

Bing wasn't even half way through his recording career when this LP (microgroove as they were called then) was issued.

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COLLECTOR'S CORNER
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'Cowboy Songs' (opposite) is an early collection of just that - and all are songs recorded by Bing in the 1930's.

The cover picture comes from Bing's first Western movie 'Rhythm on the Range' which we will be screening early next year.

'Bing and Connee' is an exremely hard to obtain LP.

Bing and Connee Boswell combined extremely well on record and it's surprising that their 78's have never again been collected on LP.

A new issue of their radio material is available however on the Spokane label and this will fill a definite gap in everyone's collection (See page 25 for details.)

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MORE LETTERS

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From Arnold Baker, Ireland.

The record scene here is really fearful. Only last week I picked up a few Bings in our local shop, all at knock-down prices. Two were 50p each and the rest at 2.99p. I brought 'em as spares. It seems that nobody is interested in real music anymore. Are things the same with you?

From Fr. Arthur L. Dussault, Gonzaga University.

I recall your nice letter expressing regret of your non-attendance to the Bing Crosby Bronze unveiling. The results were very satisfactory, including a cloudy day (a wee bit cool, but with sunshine now and then), and the best day in the week. Bing buffs from all over Australia wrote in. Their prayers, good wishes and hopes, I'm sure had a good hand in the results.

From Jim Newell, The Southampton Bing Crosby Club.

I formed the above club just 1½ years ago and I would like to join your club as an overseas member. I have a very good audio set up, cassette (2) and reel to reel (2) and would very much like to tape letters, etc to anyone interested. (Glad to help Jim. The address for members to write to is: 17, Edwina Close, Bitterne, Southampton, Hampshire, England. BM)

From Vince Pietroniro, Canada.

Does anyone have spare copies on Australian labels of the following LP's for trade: Home on the range, High Tor, In a little Spanish town, Some fine old chestnuts, On the happy side, Bing with a beat, Happy Anniversary songs, Blue Hawaii, Twilight on the trail, Drifting and dreaming, Around the world with Bing, Bing's buddies and beaus.

(Vince has other wants as well. Why not drop him a line and get the full list. His address: 378 Cabano, Lasalle Quebec, Canada H8R 2M1. BM)

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NEWS FROM THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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From Ken Twiss, Tacoma.

Well, the tribute is over and the dedication of the statue at Gonzaga is now history. Indeed there are a lot of happy memories. Our show was enjoyed by all, even though Rosemary Clooney did cancel.

Attending in Spokane were Rich Little, Phil Harris, Kathryn Crosby, Gordon Atkinson, Spokane's major, Washington governor Spellman and Roy Chappel and Teddy Johnson from England.

Teddy Johnson is working on a show here in the U,S, honouring Bing's 50th anniversary of his first solo radio show.

We have so many things planned for the future - and already I'm busy on that, even before I get all the correspondance from the Tribute answered. It is such a great feeling that there is a lot of interest in Bing's memory.

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OTHER SOCIETIES

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BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington, USA 98408. President: Ken Twiss.

CLUB CROSBY P.O. Box 8283, Sacramento, Ca. 95818, USA. President/Editor: Al Sutton.

INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE 7 Greenmeadow Close, Cwmbran NP44 4PJ, England. Editor: Reg Bristo.

BING CROSBY PHOTO CLUB 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE 28 7NE, England. Editor: Frank Murphy.

KATHRYN CROSBY CLUB 1374 Broadway #7D, West Somerville Ma, 02144 USA. President: Caroline Dawson.

INTERNATIONAL SINATRA SOCIETY PO Box 123, Clayton, Victoria Australia 3168. President: Bill Weeden.

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST

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Extracts from "Bix - Man and Legend" by Richard Sudhalter and Philip Evans. Published by Quartet Books.

(Bix Beiderbecke has just bumped into an old friend, Estelle Shaffner in St Louis)

"Hey, Stel, how'd you like to meet a wonderful fellow?" Stella blushed. "I said that I'd love to," she said, "so he took me over to the Mayfair Hotel and introduced me to Bing Crosby. And my, but he was handsome. Blue eyes, blond, wavy hair.

"It was all so funny. When I bumped into Bix like that I was on my lunch hour from my job as a salesgirl for, of all things, Philadelphia Cream Cheese. Well, after I met Bing and we made a date for the evening, I went back to work, sold all my samples in no time and bought a whole new outfit. I must have really talked a blue streak to sell all that cream cheese that fast."

Bix and Bing had taken immediately to one another. They appeared to share an easygoing approach to most of life's tribulations, as well as a fondness and near-awesome capacity for bootleg gin. But the making of the music was something else; both took it seriously, and Crosby often confessed himself in awe of Bix's absorption in and knowledge of the world of concert music.

That evening Bix and Ruth, reunited, joined Bing and Stella after work and made the rounds of some favourite haunts, ending up at "The Wedge". There was a band, Estelle said. Bix sat in on cornet and Bing sang a few numbers.

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(Hoagy Carmichael is preparing to record "Washboard Blues" with the Whiteman Orchestra, his first number with the band.)

Hoagy, tense, showed up early, and was carefully running down his lyrics when the musicians began to arrive - Bing Crosby was amongst them.

"Bing kept hanging round near the piano, listening to me rehearse the number, and I wondered why," said Carmichael. "Paul later explained that he wanted Bing to be my substitute in case I broke down on the vocal job."

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(Reproduced on page 242 of the book is a page from the famous English musical publication, Melody Maker. Taken from a 1928 issue it features rundowns of the key members of the Whiteman band, including:)

Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys

The hottest thing in harmonised rhythmic vocalism. These three voices seem able to do all that a complete orchestra can do. Their range of tone colours, rhythmic phrasing, comedy, and orchestration are works of great musical craftsmanship. Only known in this country by their records, but famous, nevertheless, through them.

.....

(The book also features a detailed rundown of a number of the Whiteman Band's Old Gold Radio Broadcasts in 1929. Here's one for September the 3rd. Anyone have a copy?)

Sept. 3 (Tues) Weekly broadcast for Old Golds, this time again over WABC from 9 - 10 pm. Harry Von Zell announcer.

Valencia (as recorded on Victor 20007)
O Ya Ya (as recorded on Victor 21304)
When you're counting the stars alone (as recorded on Columbia 1993-D but with solos by Traumbaur and Bix)
Same Old Moon (Ponce Sisters vocal)
Singin' in the rain (instrumental)
Merry Widow Waltz
Dancing Dominoes (instrumental)
Moanin' Low (Mildred Bailey vocal on Barby's arrangement)
Butterflies Kiss Buttercups Goodnight (Ponce Sisters)
Broadway Melody (Crosby vocal)
Hi-ho everybody, hi-ho. (Bix, muted for 24 bars 3rd chorus)
I'd do anything for you.
I'm doing what I'm doing for love (Crosby vocal)
If you believe in me (Mildred Bailey plus the Rhythm Boys)

Huggable, Kissable You (Crosby vocal with Friedman on clarinet in the last chorus.)
Scotchie (instrumental)
What a Day (as recorded on Columbia 1861-D)
Breakaway (Rhythm Boys vocal)

(And, to finish off, the programme of August 20th)

I'm referrin' to Her 'n' Me (Rhythm Boys vocal)
Alabamy Snow
Memories of one sweet kiss (Crosby vocal)
Feeling the way I do (Rhythm Boys vocal, Tram 16 bars of final chorus with Bix in the release.)
Waiting at the end of the road (Crosby vocal. Arrangement as recorded on Columbia 1974-D with Bix in release of last chorus.)
Waltz medley: Sleepy valley, Can't forget Hawaii, Celia, Finesse.
Oh Baby, Have a Heart (Crosby vocal, Bits of Bix & Rank)
Last Night Honey (two spots of eight bars by Bix and Traumbaur. Vocal by quartet.)
Futuristic Rhythm (Rhythm Boys vocal. Tram in release of last chorus.)
I'm Just a Vagabond Lover (Crosby Vocal)
Good little, bad little you (Mildred Bailey vocal)
I'll tell the world about you. (instrumental)
Satisfied
"Sally" medley - Sally, Won't you please come back, I wonder what's become of Sally, I'm sorry Sally.
I'll never ask for more. (Mildred Bailey vocal, Bix, derby muted, for 16 bars of last choris.)
Let's do it (as recorded but Hayton accompanies vocal trio on celeste)
Jerico. (usual arrangement.)

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Well, does anyone have one of those science fiction radios that can tune into stations of the past?! Name your price! And that's about it for this issue of the newsletter. I hope to see you at our next meeting on Monday August 17th. Best wishes,

Bob Machin